

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

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01 Claim 1 (currently amended): A patient record comprising:

a digital vital patient record (VPR) storing essential predetermined information for a patient without using a full electronic patient record;

and

a hardcopy patient record (HCPR) storing routine information and essential information, wherein the information in the VPR takes precedence over corresponding information in the

HCPR.

Claim 2 (original): The patient record as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the HCPR is stored in a designated storage area; and

a printout of the VPR is added to the HCPR each time the HCPR is retrieved from the storage area.

Claim 3 (original): The patient record as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the HCPR is stored in a designated storage area; and

a printout of the VPR corresponds to a request to retrieve the HCPR from the storage area.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method of maintaining vital patient information complementing a hardcopy patient record (HCPR) maintained at a healthcare provider's office, comprising:

generating a digital vital patient record (VPR) corresponding to a patient without using a full electronic patient record;

updating predetermined information in at least one of N categories in the VPR;

opening the VPR whenever the patient interacts with the healthcare provider's office; and

inserting a printed copy of the VPR whenever the HCPR is accessed in the healthcare provider's office,

wherein N is an integer greater than 1.

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Claim 5 (original): The method as recited in claim 4, wherein one of said N categories comprises currently prescribed medications.

Claim 6 (original): The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising the step of executing a drug interaction screening program using the predetermined information in the currently prescribed medications category.

Claim 7 (original): The method as recited in claim 4, wherein one of said N categories comprises allergies.

Claim 8 (original): The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of executing a drug interaction screening program using the predetermined information in the allergies category.

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Claim 9 (original): The method as recited in claim 4, wherein:

the generating, updating, opening, and inserting steps are performed by a first user in the healthcare provider's office; and

the method further comprises the step of closing the VPR, said closing step being performed by a second user in the healthcare provider's office.

Claim 10 (original): The method as recited in claim 4, wherein said opening step is performed by a first user in the healthcare provider's office; and

the method further comprises the step of closing the VPR, said closing step being performed by a second user in the healthcare provider's office.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A recording medium for storing a computer readable instructions for converting a general purpose computer into a core records system for maintaining vital patient information complementing a hardcopy patient record (HCPR) maintained at a healthcare provider's office, wherein the instructions permit the computer to generate a digital vital patient record (VPR) corresponding to a patient without using a full electronic patient record; to update predetermined information in at least one of N categories in the VPR; to open and update the VPR whenever the patient interacts with the healthcare provider's office; and to print a copy of the VPR for insertion into the HCPR whenever the HCPR is accessed in the healthcare provider's office, wherein N is in integer greater than 1.

Claim 12 (original): The recording medium as recited in claim 11, wherein one of said categories comprises currently prescribed medications.

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Claim 13 (original): The recording medium as recited in claim 12, wherein the instructions further permit execution of a drug interaction screening program using the predetermined information in the currently prescribed medications category.

Claim 14 (original): The recording medium as recited in claim 11, wherein the instructions permit a first user to generate, update, open, and print the VPR and permit a second user to close the VPR.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program for converting a general purpose computer into a core records system for maintaining vital patient information complementing a hardcopy patient record (HCPR) maintained at a healthcare provider's office, wherein the instructions permit the computer to generate a digital vital patient record (VPR) corresponding to a patient without using a full electronic patient record; to update predetermined information in at least one of N categories in the VPR; to open and update the VPR whenever the patient interacts with the healthcare provider's office; and to print a copy of the VPR for insertion into the HCPR whenever the HCPR is accessed in the healthcare provider's office, wherein N is an integer greater than 1.

Claim 16 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 15, wherein one of said categories comprises currently prescribed medications.

Claim 17 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer program executes a drug interaction screening program using the predetermined information in the currently prescribed medications category.

Claim 18 (original): The computer program as recited in claim 15, wherein the computer program permits a first user to generate, update, open, and print the VPR and permits a second user to close the VPR.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of maintaining vital patient information complementing a hardcopy patient record (HCPR) maintained at a healthcare provider's office, comprising:

generating a digital vital patient record (VPR) corresponding to a patient without using a full electronic patient record;

updating predetermined information in a least one of N categories in the VPR, wherein:

one of said N categories comprises currently prescribed medications;

one of said N categories comprises allergies; and

N is an integer greater than 2;

whenever the patient interacts with the healthcare provider's office:

opening the VPR;

executing a drug interaction screening program using the predetermined information in the currently prescribed medications category; and

executing a drug interaction screening program using the predetermined information in the allergies category; and

whenever the HCPR is accessed in the healthcare provider's office:

inserting a printed copy of the VPR.